

## TRIBUTE TO LARRY GAMMON

• Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to the President of Easter Seals New Hampshire, Larry Gammon, whose leadership has been crucial to the ability of Easter Seals to do so much for so many in our State. He is a man of remarkable character, who has devoted his life to community service, beginning his career in public education and then joining Easter Seals, where he is currently in his thirty-second year with the organization.

Mr. Gammon shares the dedication, enthusiasm, and vision of the founders of Easter Seals to increase the independence and improve the quality of life for individuals with special needs. As a result, Easter Seals New Hampshire has grown significantly to meet the needs of communities throughout the State, as well as in Maine, New York, and Vermont.

In New Hampshire, Easter Seals provides services to more than 20,000 residents each year, addressing a wide range of physical and emotional concerns including cerebral palsy, autism, muscular dystrophy, and Alzheimers disease.

And each day, an average of 125 New Hampshire children are served through Easter Seals' youth programs including families in need, family mediation, parenting workshops, and 24-hour emergency support. For those who needed, but could not afford, assistance in the past year, Easter Seals New Hampshire provided \$2 million in free and reduced-cost services.

New Hampshire's elderly population is well served by senior programs offered by Easter Seals including: a medical day rehabilitation program for individuals requiring light nursing monitoring; an ambulatory program for those with light medical and mental health needs; and an Alzheimer's day program for elders with dementia and memory loss.

Equally impressive as the quantity of services provided by Easter Seals New Hampshire is their variety. Deaf or hard of hearing clients are fitted with hearing aids, and vocational training is provided to the visually impaired. Additionally, rehabilitation therapy is available for those who have sustained traumatic injuries.

For 22 consecutive years, Easter Seals has ranked number one among National Health Council members for the percentage of program dollars spent on direct client services, allocating over 90 cents of every dollar for this purpose. Larry Gammon has provided prudent financial stewardship to Easter Seals New Hampshire with the organization earning numerous accolades for its fiscal management and services.

Mr. Gammon is an individual of remarkable character who leads by example, with an impressive record of community service that extends beyond his work at Easter Seals and includes active roles in a number of other community organizations. This effort

has made him successful in recruiting individuals of similar dedication to the board of directors and staff of Easter Seals, which now totals 1,200.

The contributions of Larry Gammon and Easter Seals New Hampshire on behalf of individuals with special needs are an example of America's community spirit and a role model for the rest of us. I thank the Senate for the opportunity to honor this extraordinary individual and organization.●

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 TRIBUTE TO WORLD OF CHILDREN AWARD HONOREES

• Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, today I recognize the honorees for the 2003 Hannah Neil World of Children Awards presented in Columbus, OH, on November 20, 2003. These awards recognize people from around the world who have devoted their lives to making the world a better place for children. The awards are very prestigious, commensurate to the Pulitzer and Noble Prizes for those who dedicate their lives to improving the lives of children.

Since the inception of the awards, 500 nominations have been received from 50 countries. An international Advisory Council, headed by three-time heavyweight boxing champion Muhammad Ali and composed of 35 members from 15 different countries, selects the award recipients.

I would like to recognize each of this year's honorees and thank them for their selfless commitment to helping children across the globe:

First, the Kellogg's Child Development Award honors an individual who has made a significant lifetime contribution to children's futures by greatly improving their opportunities to learn and grow. The honorees for this award are:

Fani Lerner from Parana, Brazil; Claudia Gonzales Moreno from Murillo, Bolivia; and Jetsun Pema from Himachal Pradesh, India.

The Cardinal Health Children's Care Award recognizes an individual who has made a significant lifetime contribution to the health and well-being of children. The honorees for this award are:

Dr. Martin Eichelberger from Washington, DC; Dr. Elizabeth Jones from California; and Mehendra G. Mehta from Mumbai, India.

The Founder's Award honors an individual youth who has made significant contributions to enhancing the lives of other youth. The honorees for this award are:

Ryan Hreljac from Ontario, Canada and Dayro Javier Reyes Acosta from Santander, Colombia.

I extend my most sincere thanks to these honorees for their dedication and commitment to our world's children. Their efforts, indeed, are deserving of the highest praise and recognition, as they give voice and hope to children in need across the globe.●

## GUNNERY SERGEANT THOMAS S. HOGDAHL, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

• Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, as a veteran marine and friend, I rise today to pay tribute to Gy Sgt Thomas S. Hogdahl, who will retire from the U.S. Marine Corps on March 1, 2004. I have had the pleasure to work with Hogdahl on many occasions. In addition to his professionalism and planning expertise he will be missed for his intensity, integrity, and unique sense of humor. But mostly he will be missed for his dedication to the Members and staff of the Senate.

Thomas Hogdahl was born in Teaneck, and was raised in Bergenfield NJ. There he played basketball and soccer and graduated from Bergenfield High School in 1983. In 1984 he enlisted in the Marine Corps, and subsequently reported to Parris Island, SC, to take on the challenge of becoming a US marine.

Upon earning the title of marine, Gunnery Sergeant Hogdahl completed his followon training at Camp Lejeune, NC, where he received formal training as a Marine Corps Administrator, graduating as the honor graduate. He was then ordered cross-country to Camp Pendleton, CA, to serve as an administrative clerk to the hundreds of marines assigned to the historic 1st Marine Division. From 1986 to 1994, his service would take him to Okinawa, Japan, with the 3rd Marine Amphibious Force; Marine Corps Base Quantico, VA, with Security Battalion, and eventually to Dover, NJ, with the inspector and instructor staff for the 25th Marines, 4th Marine Division.

In 1994, Gunnery Sergeant Hogdahl was selected for one of the most demanding billets in the Marine Corps, a Marine Corps Drill instructor (DI). I, as well as every person who has worn the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor will remember their drill instructor for the rest of their lives. He is the one person who has the greatest impact in transforming trainees into U.S. marines. After graduating in the top 10 percent of his DI School, Gunnery Sergeant Hogdahl returned to the legendary yellow footprints where he started his journey 10 years before, only this time it would be in Recruit Depot San Diego, and this time he would be wearing the traditional "Smokey" cover of a drill instructor. For the next 2 years his leadership and example would transform hundreds of young men into U.S. marines.

In 1996, after leaving the drill field, Gunnery Sergeant Hogdahl attended the Advanced Personnel Admin Chief's Course, graduating again as the honor graduate. Thereafter he reported for duty at Marine Corps Base Quantico, VA, where he served as Administration Chief for headquarters and Service Battalion. Just over a year later Gunnery Sergeant Hogdahl was selected to attend the Staff Non-Commissioned Officer Career Course, from which he graduated in the top 10 percent amongst his